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SUBJECT Zinc Works at Szopienice

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SOURCE

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1. The Zaklady Cynkowe (Zinc Works) at Szopienice had five departments. Departments Nos II, III, and IV were at 87 ul. Oswiecimska; Department No I, the former Uthermann Foundry, was located about 1,500 meters away from Department No II; and Department No V which included zinc smelters, storage rooms, and a laboratory adjoined the "Kunigunde" Iron Foundry.
2. A spur track extended from the Szopienice railroad station to the storage depot of Department No II. A narrow-gauge factory track was available for hauling operations. The plant was also equipped with 3 x 3.5-ton Star-20 trucks, 3 x 1.5-ton Chevrolet trucks, a 4-ton American truck, 4 sedans, and 5 teams of horses in addition to 4 horses used for the hauling of trucks.
3. Electric current was delivered by the power station at Jaworzno. Steam was used only for heating purposes.
4. The zinc blend smelted in retort furnaces of Department No I was cast into moulds and taken in the shape of 25-kg plates to Department No II where it was refined electrolytically. The daily output was 153 tons, and the plates produced measured 90 x 50 cm and had various thicknesses. Copper was smelted in the refining plant of Department No II and rolled into sheets 80 x 50 cm and 2 cm thick. Department No IV refined pig lead, desilvered it and rolled it into sheets and plates of various thicknesses and sizes. Minor quantities of silver and gold were obtained as byproducts at Departments Nos IV and II respectively.
5. Large quantities of zinc were taken over by Soviet acceptance personnel attached to the zinc works. Copper was shipped to Warsaw and to foundries at Hindenburg (Zabrze); lead was transported by trucks to foundries in Poland.
6. Departments Nos II, III, and IV had a work force of about 2,000 including 150 personnel of a labor battalion from Welnowiec (Q51/Y 57) and 350 employees. The monthly average net wages of a worker employed at the "Wannenhalle" (Electrolytic Department) were 1,600 zloty, workers employed at furnaces earned 2,000 zloty, and the average monthly wage of an unskilled worker was 800 to 1,000 zloty. Only one shift was worked at the electrolytic department; four shifts were worked at the lead works; and the other departments worked three shifts, even on Sundays and holidays.

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- 7. Work norms were fixed for all departments. At the electrolytic department, one worker served 12 electrolytic tanks and a 100 percent norm fulfilment required the production of 2,900 kg of zinc per shift. This norm was generally over-fulfilled, the average production per man and shift being 3,100 to 3,200 kg.
- 8. The area of Departments Nos II, III, and IV was partly surrounded by a pole fence and partly by a brick wall. The factory was guarded by 50 factory police, mostly women, who were armed with model 98 carbines.
- 9. A layout sketch of the zinc works, accompanied by a detailed legend, is available at the CIA Library.

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Annex to

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Zakłady Cynkowe Zinc Works at SzopieniceLegend:

- A. Szopienice railroad station
- B. Workers' hotel
- C. Quarters for apprentices
- D. Workers' Hotel Square

Department No II

- 1 Storage of zinc plates, single-story brick building, 110 x 60 x 12 meters provided with two narrow-gauge tracks
- 2 Zinc rolling plant, 140 x 30 x 12 meters, with three smokestacks, each about 70 meters high
- 3 Electric shop, training of apprentices and repair of electric motors, 100 x 25 x 10 meters; storage of electric replacement parts in the basement.
- 4 Deactivated zinc furnaces
- 5 Storage of oxygen, hydrogen, and acetylene, wooden shed, 70 x 8 meters
- 6 Brick building, 60 x 12 x 8 meters, forge; in front of the forge an electric crane with a lifting capacity of 1,500 kg.
- 7 Boiler house with three boilers for the warm water supply, 20 x 10 meters.
- 8 Two-story brick building, 60 x 20 meters, housing a kitchen and cloak rooms, storage rooms, office rooms, and a forge.
- 9 Electrolytic department equipped with 15 tanks each 2.5 meters in diameter and 4 meters high; three-story brick building, 70 x 50 meters. Adjacent to the building were two wooden vats and two concrete tanks for the storage of hydrochloric acid and liquid zinc.
- 10 Shed for factory locomotives
- 11 ) Two interconnected shops equipped with electrolytic tanks, one of them old,
- 12 ) the other new, 120 x 20 meters and 12 meters high, provided with a glass roof. Total equipments: 576 concrete tanks, lead-lined.
- 13 Building, 15 x 20 meters, housing two old and one new zinc furnaces.
- 14 Copper refinery, two-story building, 140 x 20 meters; in front of the refinery there were two rail cranes each with a lifting capacity of 3.5 tons.
- 15 Building, 100 x 8 x 7 meters, storage of iron, steel, cement, gypsum, parchment paper, electric motors etc. Adjacent to the building there was a lumber yard.
- 16 Transformer house surrounded with a 2.5 meters brick wall
- 17 ) Porter's lodge and guardhouse
- 18 ) for factory police
- 19 Two-story new brick building, 60 x 12 meters, works school.
- 20 Narrow gauge factory track
- 21 Crane
- 22 Pole fence and brick wall
- 23 Mesh wire fence

Department No II

- 1 Porter's lodge
- 2 Workshop for mechanic apprentices, single-story brick building, 80 x 18 x 8 meters
- 3 Motor vehicle repair shop, two-story brick building, 40 x 30 meters, with dispensary on the first floor.
- 4 Deactivated furnaces
- 5 Porter's lodge
- 6 Three-story brick building, 60 x 40 meters, with main administration

Department No IV

- 1 Porter's lodge
- 2 Single-story brick building, headquarters of the Communist Party organization
- 3 Kitchen and cloak rooms, single-story brick building, 70 x 20 meters
- 4 Six lead furnaces under a roof
- 5 Lead rolling plant, two-story brick building, 60 x 25 meters, with storage rooms on the first floor.
- 6 Single-story fire brick works, 70 x 35 x 9 meters.

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